

ECNU Newsletter



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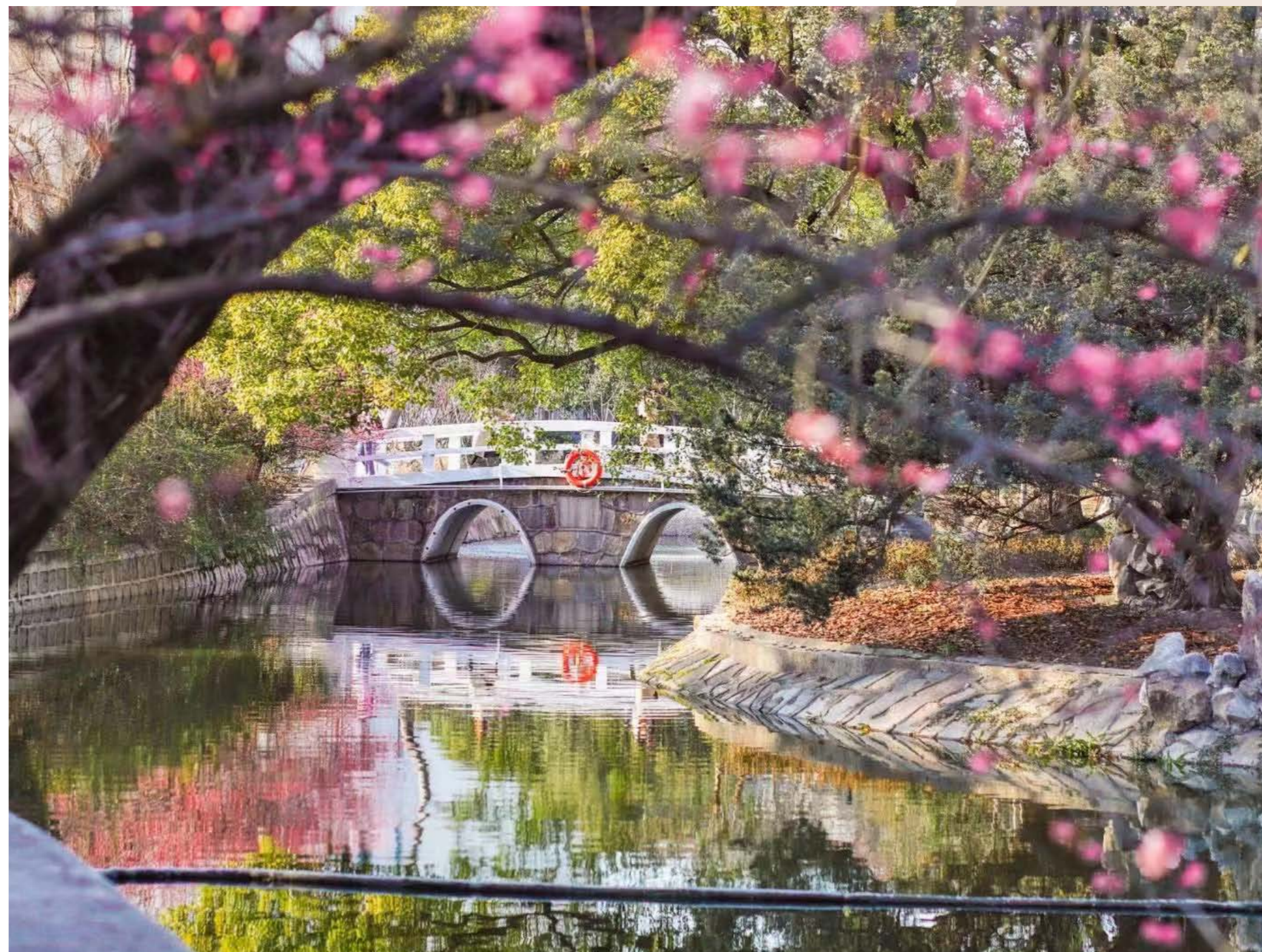
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Headlines

From big moments to the small, revisit ECNU's 2021 with us

A Year in Review

We are officially counting down to the end of 2021! 2021 has been a memorable year for ECNU, as the world continued to grapple with the ongoing pandemic. East China Normal University forged forward, taking every possible step to provide a safe, quality, accessible education to its students.

As the co-inventors of each past achievement and possibility, let us look back to this year before we look forward to 2022.

COVID Battle Continues

In the early part of the year, COVID-19 vaccines began to roll out across the country. The university partnered with local health authorities to offer vaccination clinics on campus, with booster shots becoming available in late November.

On December 8, the Minhang campus of ECNU organized mass nucleic acid testing in accordance with the Shanghai Municipal People's Government's requirements for emergency response to pandemic prevention and control. ECNUers responded to the emergency with calmness. The campus community showed its dedication to the public good with a favorable response to nucleic acid testing and high vaccination rates.

Celebrating ECNU 70th Anniversary Together

October 16, 2021 marks ECNU 70th anniversary. The celebration continued throughout the year with special events and activities on campus and around the world.

ICME-14

The 14th International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME-14) was held at ECNU during July 12 to 19. Hosted once every four years under the guidance of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI), ICME is the highest level of international conferences on mathematical education.

ICME-14 was sponsored by ECNU and chaired by the university's former president, Prof. Wang Jianpan, under the entrustment of the Chinese Mathematical Society. It was the first time for China to host the ICME.

The seven-day congress attracted over 3,000 mathematics educators and researchers from 129 countries and regions attending online or offline. The congress also presented the Felix Klein Award and the Hans Freudental Award of 2017 and 2019, and the Emma Castelnuovo Award of 2020.

Basking in the Great Love of ECNU

In 2021, we're continuing to make a difference to the social and economic wellbeing of our communities through our teaching, research, and public events and activities.

On the first day of 2021, ECNU launched 70 programs to help impoverished areas by raising the quality of their education. The programs were selected from suggestions of alumni working in basic education in China's central and western

areas. The issues raised include expanding quality education resources, improving teacher training and school conditions, and establishing educational cooperation platforms.

At the end of May, more than 1,000 families attended ECNU Intelligent Education Week activity. The university opened its campus to the public to show its latest research achievements and their application scenarios. "The 'Intelligent Education Week' is not only a demonstration of the achievements we've made, but also an important program for us to promote public welfare via education," said Mei Bing, Chair of the University Council.

During the summer vacation, ECNU staff and students sowed seeds of love in regions all over China. They volunteered to teach in primary and middle schools around the country. In addition, over hundreds of ECNU volunteers served at Shanghai big events, such as the 10th China Flower Expo and the 4th China International Import Expo. Basking in the great love of the university, ECNUers never forget to pass on our great love to others.

Academic Achievements

In 2021, ECNU scientists and researchers continue to push the envelope with discoveries that are literally changing people's lives. For example, Dr. Li Chao's research team from the School of Life Sciences of ECNU announced a groundbreaking discovery that cracks the mystery of pollination. The research result was published in *Science* on April 9.

Prof. Haibin Wu's research team from the State Key Laboratory of Precision Spectroscopy of ECNU published important Fermi gas research in *Science* as the First Release on August 26.

On June 8, State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research (SKLEC)'s Mega-Delta program was listed as one of the first round of the 65 programs endorsed under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It is the only program that has been currently accepted from the Chinese mainland.

Groundbreaking Facility

The university has committed to providing a good study and living environment for all ECNUers. During this year, we enhanced the Students' Activity Center with a new state-of-the-art skygarden. The interactive and educational sky garden allows ECNUers to get close to nature and fosters their sense of environmental sustainability.

Xiayu Canteen on Minhang campus reopened to students after renovations were completed. This modern dining hall can accommodate about 2,000 diners. The riverside seatings of Xiayu Canteen are designed as leisure areas where students can simply relax.

The university also renovated its gate at No. 3663, North Zhongshan Road. The renovation aimed to retain the original style of the gate and be simple and innovative at the same time. It inherits the profound history and culture of ECNU and demonstrates its innovative spirit and cultural vitality. Meanwhile, new road signs have been designed and installed on campus for clearer instruction.

Student Success

ECNU hosted the commencement of the Class of 2021 on June 16. The commencement was attended by more than 8,000 teachers and students. There were 8,114 ECNUers graduating from the university this year. On September 15th, ECNU held the 2021 freshman opening ceremony; 11,053 ECNUers from home and abroad were ushered into a new chapter of life.

While life often felt different and challenging in 2021, we believe that ECNUers will persist and continue to venture forward together in 2022.

Focus

ECNUers' expertise and excellence on show at Beijing 2022



Since the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games kicked off competitions, the performances of Li Lingshu, East China Normal University alumni, the first Chinese curling judge in the history of the Winter Olympics, and Hao Lei, an ECNU post-doctor, a technical official of bobsleigh/skeleton, have been well recognized by the audience, demonstrating the professionalism of college sports staff.

Hao Lei, a post-doctor from the College of Physical Education and Health, ECNU, is a Chinese technical officer of bobsleigh/skeleton at the Beijing Winter Olympic Games. His work started on Jan 21st and will finish on Feb 21st when all competitions are finished. For now, he is responsible for pre-competition practice and in-competition coordination at the National Sliding Centre, Yanqing District, Beijing.

Without the precious experience as a physical fitness coach for China's national skeleton team and his academic research during his doctoral study, Hao Lei would not have been able to become a technical officer of bobsleigh/skeleton in this Winter Olympic Games. During those years, he participated in the program Scientific and Technological Services for the Winter Sports Management Centre of the General Administration of Sports of China-Personalized Services for National Training Team to Prepare for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, during which time he accompanied the Team to foreign and domestic training bases, including Calgary in Canada, Shanghai, Shenyang in Liaoning Province and Ankang in Shanxi Province.

Hao Lei is also a holder of the national judge certificate for skeleton and has participated many times in bobsleigh/skeleton judge training programs hosted

by the Organizing Committee of Beijing Winter Olympic Games.

Since Hao Lei conducted his post-doctoral research at ECNU, his academic interest has expanded from physical training of skeleton athletes to sports intervention and health promotion, as well as specialized theories and practices of sports, which have helped him lay a solid foundation for future research and



sustainable development in the field of physical education pedagogy and training.

According to Prof. Sun Youping, Hao Lei's mentor from the College of Physical Education and Health of ECNU, China's bobsleigh/skeleton activities started late. At present, multiple levels of athletes have not yet developed, as only national teams exist. Besides, the training concepts, methods and means of excellent athletes and coaches remain to be developed.

Prof. Sun hopes that Hao Lei can demonstrate the professionalism of China's skeleton judging, and at the same time collect information about the competitiveness and training status of the world's top skele-

ton athletes, so as to identify the gap between domestic and foreign athletes and find the breakthrough point for research in order to promote China's skeleton strength.

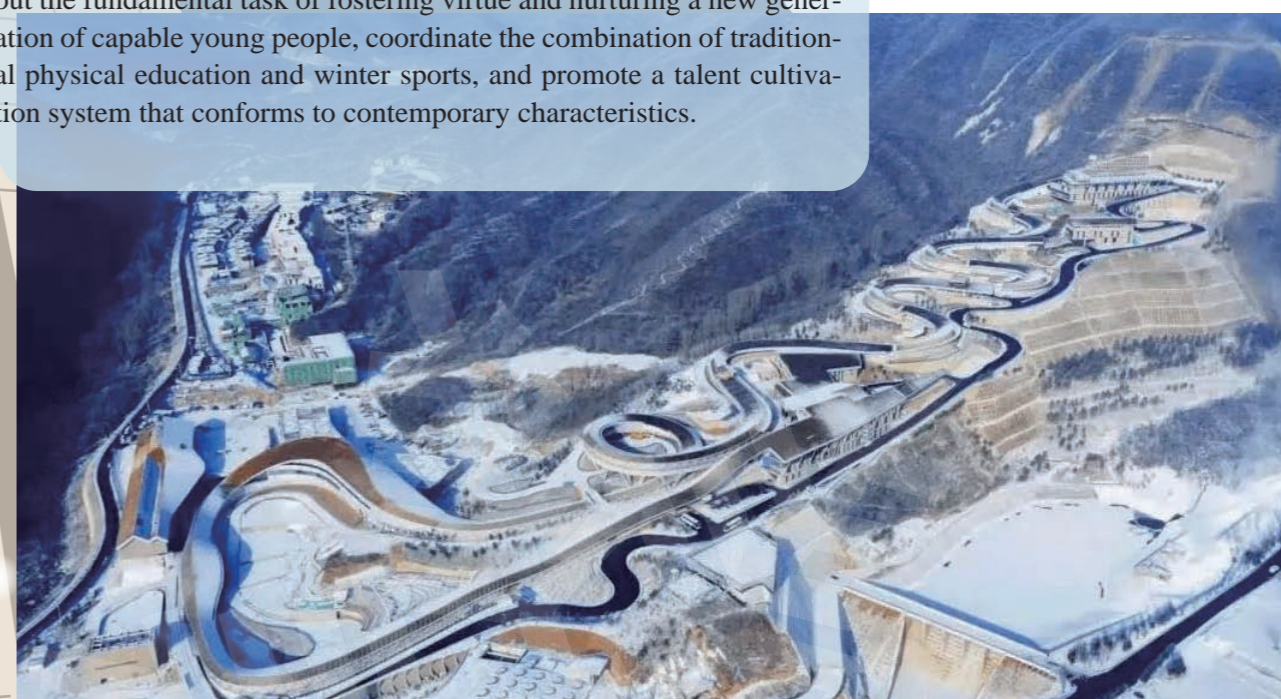
Li Lingshu, a 2018 PhD graduate of ECNU, is one of the first Chinese judges in the history of the Winter Olympics. As the first one to serve as the deputy chief timer in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, she cooperates with a German chief timer to manage 4 clocks and all timing technicians.

Li Lingshu obtained her Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees in the College of Physical Education and Health of ECNU. During her school years, she demonstrated extraordinary mental strength and research potential and was always persistent and fully devoted to studying. Her sports talents and team working spirit were also outstanding.

After graduation, Li Lingshu was involved in curling from 2011. She was first selected into the Shanghai curling talent cultivation program, then grew from a curling coach to a curling judge in just a few years. Now she has become a judge at the Winter Olympic Games. It was unswerving effort and the pursuit for excellence that boosted her great progress.

To help more students from the southern provinces of China to better understand winter sports, Li Lingshu has been providing optional curling courses in Shanghai International Studies University, where she works, introducing winter sports theories to more people. Besides, she also teaches winter sports on MOOC platforms and holds floor curling courses for Shanghai's ice-and-snow schools on a regular basis.

The Beijing Winter Olympics has injected vigorous vitality into China's sports on ice and snow and has moved them into the fast lane of development. With these opportunities, ECNU will continue to carry out the fundamental task of fostering virtue and nurturing a new generation of capable young people, coordinate the combination of traditional physical education and winter sports, and promote a talent cultivation system that conforms to contemporary characteristics.



Japanese volunteer Kyoko's story of Beijing Olympic Winter Games

Kyoko Yamashita, a Japanese graduate student from the School of Psychology and Cognitive Science of East China Normal University (ECNU), is one of the volunteers working for Beijing 2022. After nearly a month of training, she arrived at Zhangjiakou Olympic Village and began to work.

“My job is mainly to run the sponsor booths. During the Beijing Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics, I am required to distribute gifts to athletes from various countries in the Olympic Village. I also participated in formulating the preliminary plan.” said Kyoko.

January 27 was the first day that Kyoko Yamashita was on duty. Her work was not easy: she got up at 6 o'clock, gathered at 7:30 with other volunteers and took the bus from the hotel to the Olympic Village, started to work at the booth at 9 and continued until 20:30. Then, there was a summary meeting, and she did not return to the hotel to rest until 22:30.

“Although I am a bit busy, I still feel quite pleased about all the fresh experiences I have gained here,” said Kyoko, “I have done some work related to exhibitions, but it was far from being as grand and professional as the Winter Olympics. Here I can see athletes from different countries coming and going. The organizing committee checks the volunteers' communication script every day, which shows that the requirements set out for volunteers are very strict.”

The professionalism of Beijing 2022 is also reflected in the measures implemented for pandemic prevention. “Disinfection gateways have been set up at the Olympic Villages and the hotels. Every volunteer is required to take daily nucleic acid testing before going to work in order to ensure the health of the volunteers. We are also required to wear masks and gloves throughout the working hours.” Kyoko said, “food here is delicious and accommodation quite suitable. I feel comfortable working here.”

When it comes to something interesting during

volunteer work, Kyoko mentioned, “I saw two Chinese athletes and greeted them on my first day of work. At that moment, it seemed that I met my family.” She couldn't hide her excitement.

However, Kyoko has encountered some difficulties at work. For example, there may be language barriers to her communication with athletes and representatives from countries such as Ukraine and Belarus, whose official languages are not English. Still, Kyoko managed to communicate with them with the help of interpreters.

As a second-year graduate student, Kyoko also has problems with her schedule. “I went to Beijing for training in December, and the volunteer work may last until the end of March, but the thesis proposal is scheduled to take place in May. I need to coordinate my studies with the volunteer work.” Kyoko said, “fortunately, my supervisor and the leaders of the School of Psychology and Cognitive Science are strongly supportive of my decision to volunteer for Beijing 2022. I am really grateful for their understanding and support.”

Mentioning why she decided to be a volunteer for Beijing 2022, Kyoko said, “My mother and my grandmother are Chinese, and my father is Japanese. I grew up in China. I really want to do something to win glory for the country where I grew up, so I signed up as a recruit to the volunteer work for Beijing 2022 as soon as I read the notice.” Kyoko said, “But in fact, I was hesitant at that time because the volunteer work would take nearly five months, which was too long for me. But my family suggested that I take on the job as this may be an once-in-a-life time opportunity.”

Kyoko expressed her blessings and expectations for this grand event, “I'd like to cheer on the Chinese Olympic team. I hope that during the Winter Olympics people can not only cheer on the athletes, but also learn more about them. I hope more people will take part in winter sports!”



ECNUers give unanimous thumbs-up to Beijing 2022

With the Olympic flame extinguished following a farewell party, Beijing capped the 2022 Olympic Winter Games to resounding global acclaim on Sunday for bringing the world together through the power of sports at a challenging time.

In the past 16 days, Beijing, an ancient and modern international city, and the world's first double Olympic city, once again presented an unforgettable Olympic event to the world, providing a stage for ice and snow events for over 3000 athletes from 91 countries to surpass themselves, and injecting confidence and strength into a world plagued by the pandemic.

Students from East China Normal University have also given thumbs-up to Beijing 2022 and cheered for the Olympics in their own ways.

event so perfectly and treating every country with equal respect. The fire of Beijing 2022 not only represents the Olympic flame, but also implies the spirit of unity and cooperation of all mankind. Ice and snow sports are not only the embodiment of human indomitable fighting spirit, but also the display of human wisdom and creativity, said Ole.

David Kyei-Nuamah from Ghana was also amazed by the Beijing 2022 opening and closing ceremony. “This 2022 Winter Olympics remains one of the most glamorous, cultural and artistic displays. The love with which the athletes representing their various countries showed their preparedness for handling the various sports. Not forgetting the sensational Gu Ailing; she was the lady of the Olympic Games for me, her smile, and unique handling of freestyle skiing made me follow her



Affected by the pandemic, Ole Eidskrem, a Norwegian student studying in the School of International Chinese Studies, couldn't come back to China, but he watched the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics online. “When I saw the athletes from Norway, China and other countries coming out at the opening ceremony of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, I was extremely excited,” said Ole.

I think the reason why Norwegians enjoy the Winter Olympics so much is that ice and snow sports have extraordinary significance in our lives and growth. In addition, due to our small population, we have more emotional feelings for the athletes representing Norway! We were very proud when we saw them win the event and win the gold medal. When an athlete wins, the whole of Norway will feel the same joy, as if we had won it ourselves.

I want to thank China for hosting this international

through all her gold medal events. I wish all the athletes well in their endeavors.”

Due to the Olympic fever, winter sports are becoming more popular across China. Wang Xuewen, a graduate in the Faculty of Education gets so excited about winter sports. Not only did she watch the games on TV, Wang also went skiing with her friends during the winter holiday. “It's hard to keep balance on the ice, not to mention the difficult movements that athletes have to do,” said Wang.

“In the past, I used to stay inside all the time during winter. But it's not the case anymore. I am also looking forward to trying new winter sports games, like curling, skeleton etc. Besides, the athlete's persistence and determination also motivate me to pursue my dreams in the new semester.”

Tuesday 1 February marks the beginning of Lunar New Year for 2022. Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important holiday in China. It is when friends and family gather to share joy and count their blessings. New Year festivities usher out the old year and are meant to bring luck and prosperity in the new one.

This year, about 3,000 ECNUers are staying on campus during the Spring Festival. East China Normal University provides various activities and services for students to celebrate the most important traditional festival together.

On New Year's Eve, the university prepared 28 different dishes and a party was organized by the students to entertain themselves.

A student from Thailand, whose Chinese name is Liu Chenglong, said that he was very familiar with Chinese New Year traditions as his mother is Chinese. I felt really happy that I could spend such an important day with my fellow students, he said. Because of the pandemic, I couldn't reunite with my family for these past two years, but the campus feels like home anyway.



"It is a time for families to get together, express thanks to the elders and make best wishes for the new year. It is a season for relatives and friends to connect and enjoy each other's company. It embodies our best wishes for a beautiful life. I am glad that ECNU kept the tradition to celebrate the Chinese New year even under the global pandemic," said Wang Xuewen, a student from Faculty of Education.



Campus

ECNU celebrates Chinese New Year to make students feel at home

Faculty at ECNU wrote calligraphic new year wishes to students staying on campus for the Spring Festival. Decorations of the Spring Festival were sent to the students' dormitory to post and decorate.

ECNU Global Education Center sent food and wonderful gifts to the international students staying on campuses.



Wishing all ECNUers a very happy, healthy and prosperous year of the Tiger!



Research

ECNU researchers find new achievements in perovskite solar cells



A research team headed by Prof. Fang Junfeng from the School of Physics and Electronic Sciences of East China Normal University (ECNU) has achieved breakthrough scientific research in perovskite solar cells.

The achievement was published in *Science* on January 28, 2022 with the title of “Constructing heterojunctions by surface sulfidation for efficient inverted perovskite solar cells.” ECNU is the first affiliation. Researcher Li Xiaodong is the first author and Prof. Fang Junfeng is the corresponding author.

A stable perovskite heterojunction was constructed for inverted solar cells through surface sulfidation of lead (Pb)-rich perovskite films. The formed lead-sulfur (Pb-S) bonds upshifted the Fermi level at the perovskite interface and induced an extra back-surface field for electron extraction. The resulting inverted devices exhibited a power conversion efficiency (PCE) >24% with a high open-circuit voltage of 1.19 volts, corresponding to a low voltage loss of 0.36 volts. The strong Pb-S bonds could stabilize perovskite heterojunctions and strengthen underlying perovskite structures that have a similar crystal lattice. Devices with surface sulfidation retained more than 90% of the initial PCE after aging at 85°C for 2200 hours or operating at the maximum power point under continuous illumination for 1000 hours at 55° ± 5°C.

The research was evaluated by the reviewer of *Science* as: “**novel and impressive**”, **highest record efficiency in inverted PSCs**”, “**provided new insight into efficient inverted PSCs**”, “**greatly promote the further development of inverted PSCs**”.

Referring to the application prospects of this research, the research team said, in the future, we will continue to focus on the in-depth research of efficient and stable inverted perovskite batteries, explore new schemes for constructing efficient interface heterojunctions, and further improve the efficiency and stability of devices. At the same time, we will also carry out some research on large-area perovskite battery modules to promote the practical research of perovskite batteries.

International Joint Laboratory on Estuaries and Coasts kicks off

The Kick-off Meeting for the International Joint Laboratory on Estuaries and Coasts (IJLEC), which is led by the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research (SKLEC), East China Normal University, was held online on January 19, 2022. More than 40 scientists and government officials from five countries attended this meeting.

Ms. He Shangyan, Director of the International Cooperation Department from the Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality (STCSM), conveyed her congratulations on the establishment of the International Joint Laboratory on Estuaries and Coasts. She said Shanghai is now striving to build a Global Innovation Hub. The joint laboratory led by SKLEC is an excellent platform for promoting scientific innovation and collaboration. She believes new achievements will be made in the field of estuarine and coastal research with the joint efforts from all the partners.

Mr. Wu Wenlong, Secretary of the Culture, Science & Education Department from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Romania, expressed his congratulations for the launch of the joint laboratory. It is a concrete action made to implement the Belt and Road Science and Technology Innovation Action Plan, he said. The science section of the China Embassy in Romania will provide strong support and assistance for the cooperation between Chinese and Romanian scientists.

Prof. He Qing, Director of the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research, ECNU, and PI of the IJLEC warmly welcomed all the participants and briefly introduced the aims and scopes of the International Joint Laboratory on Estuaries and Coasts.

Dr. Samina Kidwai, Director General of the National Institute of Oceanography, Pakistan, Dr. Marian Tudor, Director of the Danube Delta National Institute for

Research & Development, Romania, Dr. Laura Dutu from the Romanian National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology, Prof. Alaa Salem from Kafrelsheikh University, Egypt, and Prof. Sheikh Aftab Uddin from the Institute of Marine Science, Chittagong University, Bangladesh, presented the challenges and research needs in their deltas. They showed strong willingness to work together on flood prevention and early warning, coastal erosion, wetlands conservation and restoration, pollution control, saltwater intrusion and marine micro-plastics etc.

The participants further discussed the next steps for promoting the joint laboratory. It is planned to set up different thematic research groups, organize workshops or training courses for students, and share remotely sensed data. The partner institutions will not only support joint research, but also contribute to capacity building and technology transfer. The successful convening of this kick-off meeting marks the official launch of the International Joint Laboratory on Estuaries and Coasts, which has laid a good foundation for follow-up cooperation.

Creativity
Character
Community

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